



STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

BOARD OF FINANCE

ROBERT K. PAGANI
Chairman

RICHARD J. CLEARY
ROBERT J. CLEMENTS
MARK A. JOYSE
BARRY C. PINTO
ALBERT S. WACHSMAN

BUDGET DELIBERATIONS TUESDAY MAY 23, 2006

Board of Finance Members Present: Robert Pagani-Chairman, Robert Clements, Mark Joyse, Barry Pinto, Albert Wachsmann

Board of Finance Members Absent: Richard Cleary

Others Present: N. DiCorleto-Fin Off, M. Stupinski-First Sel, P. Charter, J. Prichard, L. Miller-Selectmen, R. Packman-Supt of Schools, D. Roberson-Chmn BOE, P. Michaud-DPW Director, R. Tedford-Dir P&R, A. Lawrence-Fire Marshal, M. Blanchette-BOE, P. Hany-Pres EVAC, M. Varney- Chief EVFD, C. Pippin-Chief CLFD, several residents.

The Chairman opened the deliberations at 8:10 pm with audience comments.

Walter Willette asked if the advisory questions were worth keeping on the ballot and whether or not they provided any valuable information.

Mr. Pagani stated that he would not recommend putting them on again. Mr. Clements felt that the questions set the town up for defeat and created a negative attitude.

Mr. Roberson stated that the voters spoke on May 17 and that a smaller number of residents wanted a reduction in the Board of Education budget than the other budgets. Any cuts made tonight will dismantle the education budget. He asked that the Board of Finance make only modest cuts.

Mr. Wehr passed out a spread sheet to the board members with some figures he researched showing that to get to a 6% increase, the budget would have to be cut \$2.2 million.

Mr. Pagani stated that single family homes are running close to the new values.

Bruce Fader stated that he is concerned about the Board of Education budget and that there is no fat in it to cut. He feels the town is being faced with decreased educational value.

Chairman Pagani stated that last year there were four referendums and which among other things caused the town to lose revenue interest in July. He has gone through this budget line by line and has come up with a list of reductions. He understands the arguments presented here tonight but there are only two places to get funds and that is fees and property taxes. He then listed the reductions; he also recommended rescinding the cultural arts commission budget and applying this year's money to next year. He is recommending that the computers for the Board of Education be purchased on a 4 year lease and that 2% or \$500,000 be reduced from the BOE budget.

There is an additional \$57,000 in FEMA grants that the town will be receiving. He then asked the members for their thoughts.

Mr. Wachsman suggested taking the dual oil burners for the High School out of the capital improvements budget. He asked Mr. Varney for an explanation of the hose equipment. Chief Varney stated that this is replacement hose for pumpers. There were some that tested bad due to age and this to upgrade to 5" supply hose.

Mr. Joyse asked what the rationale for leasing the computers was. He felt if they are financed over two years they could be purchased outright. Mr. Pagani stated that the Board of Education can get them all this year for \$100,000 with a good interest rate. Dr. Packman stated that the original proposal was for a lease and he is not opposed to it. Mr. Joyse asked that additional found revenues be given directly to the Board of Education.

Both Mr. Clements and Mr. Pinto supported leasing the computers as a way of getting them all in house as soon as possible. Mr. Pinto asked about the fencing in the back parking lot at the High School. Mr. Pagani stated that this is for safety as well as protecting the investment in the ball fields.

**MOTION (WASCHMAN) SECONDED (JOYSE) TO CUT OUT THE DUAL OIL BURNERS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000.
MOTION DEFEATED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Littizzio stated that if the price difference between oil and gas stays were it is now, the payback will be one year on this investment.

Mr. Michaud stated that the reductions to the road overlay account year after year has caused the total reconstruction of some of the roads rather than just the overlaying. Mr. Stupinski stated that when we defer maintenance, things fall apart and it is more costly to repair or replace. Peter Charter asked that the \$100,000 be put back into the overlay account so that the town does not have to bond the reconstruction of roads as other towns have had to do.

Mr. Michaud asked that the Board of Finance not take the track resurfacing out. He asked that the FEMA money be used to do this item. He did not feel that the Board of Education should receive the FEMA funds since this is reimbursement of funds that the DPW has expended.

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO PUT BACK \$100,000 INTO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ROAD OVERLAY LINE ITEM.

MOTION (WACHSMAN) SECONDED (CLEMENTS) AND PASSED TO FUND THE TRACK REFURBISHMENT WITH FEMA FUNDS FOR THE 06/07 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET. PAGANI VOTED NAY.

Reductions are as follows:

Sidewalks (1100)	\$ 30,000
Park& Rec Upgrades (1100)	23,000
BOE Computers (1100)	330,000
P&R Operational Budget (540)	6,250
Cultural Arts Comm. (550)	11,900
After School Program (560)	1,000
Snipsic Lake Monitoring (580)	5,000
Hall Mmeorial Library 2% cut	9,500
ROPE (744)	1,000
Youth Act. Program (745)	2,000
Welfare (780)	500
Senior Center (795)	2,500
Town Hall Account (810)	6,000
Insurance Account (950)	35,000
Contingency Fund (1010)	3,000
Capital Reserve Fund (1011)	1,800
Ad Hoc Drug and Alcohol (1020)	500
Salary Adjustment (1065)	600
Board of Education	500,000
Cultural Arts 2005/06	5,000

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (WACHSMAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD BACK \$89,374 FOR COMPUTER LEASING.

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ENTER INTO A FOUR YEAR LEASE FOR THE COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RESCIND THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION 05/06 BUDGET OF \$5,000.

Chairman Pagani then asked how the electricity consortium was going. Mr. Stupinski stated that CCM was coming to make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen on June 19. Mr. Littizzio stated that he sent the information to CCCP and that through this program, CCCP will come back with the prices and the town then decides if they want to join the purchase. There are 44 school systems and towns participating at this time. Mr. Stupinski felt that the Board of Education should join the Board of Selectmen at this meeting with CCM. Mr. Pagani stated that the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education should settle this matter soon.

Revenues

There is \$57,301 in FEMA revenues expected to be applied to the tax rate. There is a (\$18,968) correction to the revenues based on the 5/1/06 adopted state budget for 2006/07.

MOTION (JOYSE) SECONDED (CLEMENTS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RECOGNIZE THE (\$18,968) CORRECTION TO REVENUES AND THE ADDITIONAL FEMA FUNDS.

Chairman called a recess at 9:45 pm.
Meeting was reconvened at 10:08 pm.

Final Motions

Approval of Fiscal Year Budget 2006-07

MOVED (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY THAT THE SUM OF MONEY RECOMMENDED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-07 IS \$39,571,991. ALL EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANTS (ECS) ARE DEEMED TO BE APPROPRIATED TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

TO RECOMMEND TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 9,740,942
REDEMPTION OF DEBT	3,178,138
CONTINGENCY FUND	147,000
BOARD OF EDUCATION	25,438,265
CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND	<u>1,067,646</u>
	\$ 39,571,991

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED TO RECOMMEND TO A TOWN MEETING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,067,646 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-07 FOR THE CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND, SAID APPROPRIATION TO FUND THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

UNIMPROVED ROAD IMPROVEMENT	80,000
LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM	101,431
ROAD OVERLAY	300,000
WINDERMERE RD/PINNEY ST ROUNDABOUT	60,000
WINDERMERE BRIDGE ENGINEERING	45,000
TOWNWIDE SIDEWALKS	30,000
DPW-SMALL DUMP TRUCK REPLACEMENT (1)	40,000
BROOKSIDE PARK-FENCING	29,400
POLICE CRUISERS	31,215
EVAC-TRAINING/EMERG RESPONSE VEHICLE	50,000
EVAC-DEFIBRILLATORS/CPR EQUIPMENT	11,000
EVAC-LAPTOP COMPUTERS FOR AMBULANCE	22,000
ELFD-HOSE EQUIPMENT UPGRADE REPLACEMENT	10,000
ELFD-HOSE TOWN REBUILT	18,000
BOE-REPLACEMENT VANS SPECIAL ED (2)	50,000
BOE-WIND SOFFIT REPAIR/PAINTING	30,000
BOE-EHS VIDEO PRODUCTION LAB	53,000
BOE-EHS FENCING BACK PARKING LOT	27,600
BOE-EHS DUAL OIL BURNERS	40,000
BOE-EHS TRACK RESTORATION	<u>39,000</u>
	\$1,067,646
LESS FEDERAL/STATE/TRUST FUNDS	
STATE GRANT-LOCIP	101,431
STATE GRANT-OPM SUPPLMT ED NEEDS	25,000
AMBULANCE FEE PROGRAM	<u>83,000</u>
NET COST TO TOWN	\$ 858,215

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The chairman adjourned the deliberations at 10:20 pm.

Submitted by Lori Smith Lori Smith, Clerk